MUSEUM ON MAIN STREET
A Museum Of County Life

IMPRESSIONS

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER • MAY 2000

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Antiques Appraisal A Hugh Success

Photos by Susan Wineberg

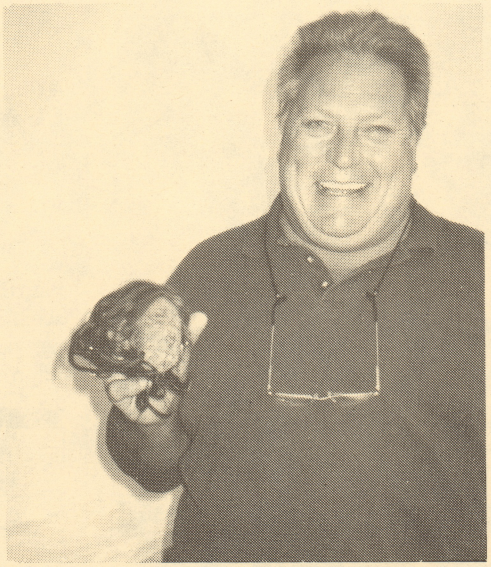
Ernest DuMouchelle appraises an item aided by President Walters.

Over 80 people came to the Dixboro United Methodist Church to have their items appraised by Ernest DuMouchelle of DuMouchelles of Detroit. Despite the snow (yes!) we had a great turnout and made a profit of about $1700.00. People were happy despite the often-long wait. But this gave them time to check out the food donated by YES Sandwich Café, the water donated by Absopure, the baked goods made by members of the WCHS, as well as historic artifacts from our collections and items from our gift shop. Our very special thanks to Ernest DuMouchelle who was a trooper, working almost non-stop from 11AM to 4 PM. Most people left with smiles on their faces.

We have many people to thank. President Pauline Walters organized a terrific team and aided Mr. DuMouchelle with the written appraisals. Board members and others who helped were Peggy Haines, Ralph Beebe, Patty Creal, Karen Simpson, Connie Branson, Ginny Hills, Ann DeFreytas, Harriet Birch, Pat Thompson, Esther Warzynski, Dean Smith Rosemarion Blake, Susan Wineberg, Karen O'Neal and Judy Chrisman. Judy arranged a table full of wonderful items from our collections and Karen O'Neal set up the books and other items from our Museum Gift Shop and brought the Signature Quilt as well. Special thanks also to the Dixboro General Store for distributing postcards about this event.

DuMouchelles is located at 409 E. Jefferson in downtown Detroit. It holds estate auctions once a month on Friday, Saturday and Sunday and has been in business since 1927. Anyone can sell through the gallery, even just a single item. For items under $300 their fee is 35%. Above that it is 25 % and on items over $4000 they get a 10% commission. All you need to do is make an appointment by calling (313) 963-6255 or visit their website at www.dumouchelles.com.

More Appraisal photos on page 2.



Aleksis Lahti's Ecuadorian shrunken head was appraised at $2,500 and probably dates to the 1830s

Next Program

Our next and final program will be our **Annual Meeting and Potluck**. It will be held on Wednesday, May 17, 2000 at the Chelsea Depot at 6:00 PM. You are expected to bring a dish to pass for 10 people. We will have our Annual Report to distribute and will elect a slate of officers and board members for the coming year. After dinner, we will hear about the history of Chelsea Milling Co and its most famous product—**Jiffy Mix**—from **Howard S. "Howdy" Holmes**. Holmes' father founded Jiffy Mix in Chelsea after his mother invented the product in 1930. You can learn more about Jiffy Mix by visiting their website at **www.jiffymix.com**.

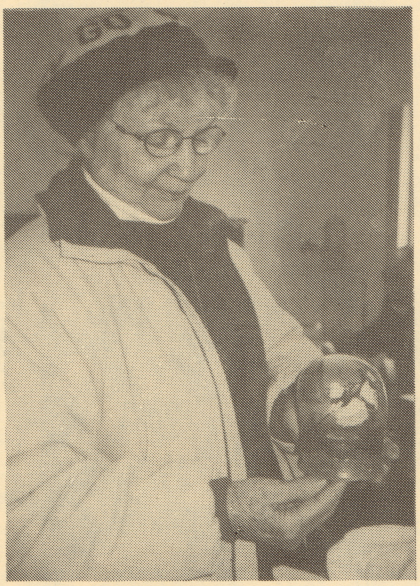
Antiques Appraisal A Hugh Success

Continued from page 1.

George Eaton's 1830s sample empire style sofa was also appraised at $1,500.

Early birds wait patiently for numbers to be given out.

Collections Chair Judy Chrisman with a sample of WCHS artifacts.



Mary Helen Heikkenen's sunbonnet babies candleholder was appraised at $100.

June Trip

Saturday • June 3, 2000. The **bus trip to Midland, Michigan** has two spaces available. Call Pauline at 662-9092 to see if there is room. The cost is $50/person. We will tour the **Alden Dow Home and Studio** and enjoy a box lunch in the living room of this lovely home. We will visit the home of his parents, **Herbert and Grace Dow**, which is next door, and end the day with a stroll through the beautiful **Dow Gardens**.

Knapps Points Have Changed

Knapp's Points Coordinator Esther Warzynski reports that we have received a check for $338.96 towards our purchase of archival materials. Thank you one and all for your help and please keep saving your slips for us. We already have an extra 700 points.

Want An Economy Bailer

Do you want an Economy Baler? *Yankee Magazine's* Swopper's Column has an offer to swop a paper compactor made by the Economy Baler Co. of Ann Arbor for a family-size camping tent. If interested reply to Swopper, Yankee, PO Box 520, Dublin, MH 03444 for item #F 020 NY and include a stamped envelope.

How To Join

Send name, address and phone number with check payable to WCHS to: Treasurer, WCHS, P O Box 3336, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3336. Annual dues are individual, $15; couple/family $25; student or senior (60+) $10; senior couple $19; business/association $50; patron $100. For information call 734-662-9092.

MAY SPONSORS

This month's sponsors are:

EDWARDS BROTHERS & HARRIS MARKETING

ALDEN DOW'S BUILDINGS IN ANN ARBOR • GRACE SHACKMAN

Gardens Never End And Buildings Never Begin

Photos courtesy of Grace Shackman

Alden Dow in his studio in Midland, Michigan.

Over 60 people sat in the luxuriously comfortable Campbell Auditorium at Greenhills School as Grace Shackman, former County Commissioner, local historian and author of the "Then and Now" column for the Ann Arbor Observer showed slides and discussed the work of architect Alden Dow in Ann Arbor. Greenhills was Dow's last commission in Ann Arbor (he died in 1983) and after the program a tour of the school was given by Building Manager Bob Reisch. Though several additions have been made since the original was finished by local architect Dan Jacobs, the spirit of Dow pervades the campus like setting.

Grace started by giving a short biography of Alden Dow. "He was born in 1904 in Midland, Michigan, the son of Herbert A. Dow, the founder of Dow Chemical Co. in Midland, and as such grew up with all the amenities available to someone of their prestige and income. He was exposed to good art and beautiful gardens and when he was 18 his family took a trip to Japan, where he saw Frank Lloyd Wright's Imperial Hotel and many lovely Japanese gardens. This was very influential on his work later.

Of course, the family expected that he would go into the family business and he did study chemical engineering at the University of Michigan. But after taking courses for two years he realized his true love was architecture. He convinced his family to let him change his major and they kindly agreed. He went on to study architecture at Columbia University in New York City.

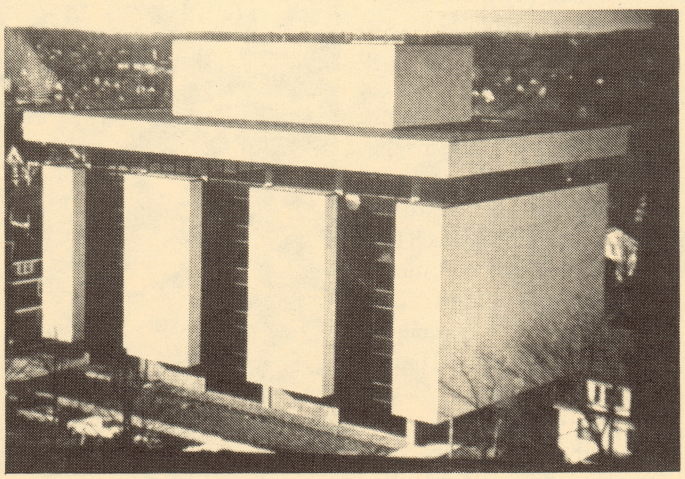
Before finishing his degree in 1931 he was given his first job designing the Midland Country Club in 1930. Of course many of his critics complained that he got his jobs through his family's connections and no doubt this first commission reflects that. But later it was quite different and he earned his work the old fashioned way. His first residential commission was the home of his sister, Margaret Dow Towsley, who lived in Ann Arbor. She and her husband, Harry Towsley, had him design their home at 1000 Berkshire in 1932.

But as early as 1930 Dow had wanted to work with Wright at Taliesin in Wisconsin though his efforts had been rebuffed at the time. In 1933 he tried again, this time with success. But unlike most students, Dow brought a commission with him (the Stein house in Midland). Wright's influence can be seen in the changes made to these plans after Dow's stay at Taliesin. But Dow only stayed a few months, avoiding the fate of others who stayed longer and were later thought to be mere apprentices to Wright. Dow's mature age (29), the fact that he had commissions and the ability to execute them, and his travel meant he could build on his own. He thus admired Wright's unit system but not his bravura style.

He was influenced by and a fan of Wright but you can't say he was really a disciple of Wright. He returned to Midland and remained there his entire life. He could have gone anywhere but stayed in his hometown. He is said to have built 134 buildings and 104 of these were in Midland. Also of that total, 17 were in Ann Arbor. Others were in Saginaw and Bay City and other cities in Michigan as well as in San Francisco, Cape Fear NC, Elkhart IN, a few in Ohio, and the Dow Company town in Freeport, Texas. Ironically, he did very little in the Detroit area. He concentrated on houses and churches in the 1930s and 40s, and in the 1950s and 60s built many more public buildings. His buildings in Ann Arbor fall into the latter category, as he only built three houses in Ann Arbor.

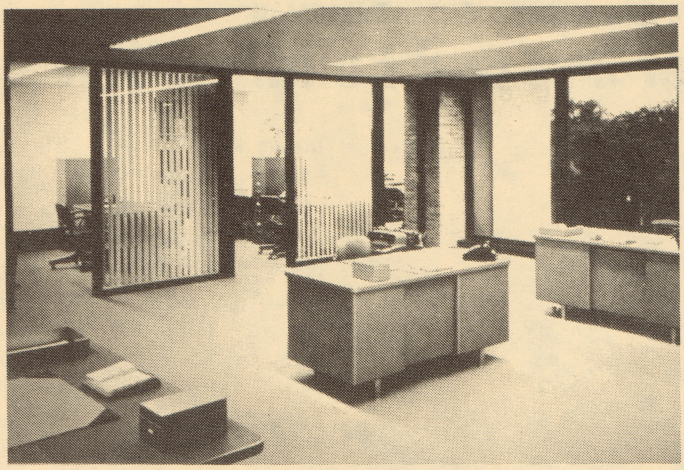
He was an important architect in the 20th century but it is difficult to appreciate his public buildings in Ann Arbor because they are at the difficult age (35-40) of having outgrown their uses but not being old enough to be of historic interest. Several of these buildings, including Ann Arbor City Hall and the U of M's Administration Building, are struggling to accommodate new needs and many more users. I hope that my talk today will give people a better understanding of his thinking and why he was the architect laureate for the state of Michigan."

Grace then proceeded to show slides. "The first one is of Alden Dow himself, showing what a modern architect he was.



The ISR at U of Michigan, built 1964.

He is seated in his office in Midland, with modern furniture and a Navajo rug for decoration. He was fascinated with different shapes, which he called 'composed order.' He is also famous for his use of bright colors, or 'jewel tones' as he called them. But what I believe is his most important contribution is his work with gardens and with bringing the outside into the house. He was quoted as saying ' gardens never end, and buildings never begin' and this is really key to understanding what he was trying to do.



Original interior of ISR 1964.

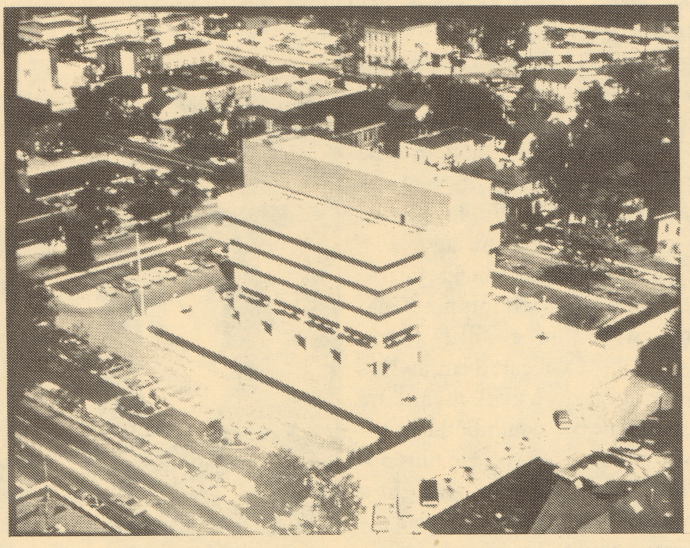
Slides were shown of the **Midland Country Club**, Dow's first commission. His second commission and first residence were for his sister **Margaret Dow Towsley** who lived in Ann Arbor with her husband **Harry Towsley**, a physician specializing in pediatrics. The home still stands today at **1000 Berkshire** (with three additions, also done by Alden) and looks as modern as it did in 1932 when it was built. The Towsleys saw this as a starter home, but in fact wound up living in it their whole lives. Luckily the home was on a corner lot which allowed the additions and the home eventually became L-shaped and wrapped around a patio in the middle. Another unusual feature of this home was the attached garage, believed to be the first such garage in the United States.

It was also a bit unusual at the time to build a one-story house. I talked to Jack Dobson, a family friend who remembers that many people thought it looked like a gas station! I asked Judy Dow Rumelhart, their daughter, if they found it strange and she said, 'no, we loved living in that house.' But this house exhibits many features that were to become standard later. One is the low, spread out plan which Dow fought with the City of Ann Arbor about regarding the height of the walls which he wanted to be 7 feet something and the city wanted to be 8 feet. More recent photos show that not much has changed. Interior shots show Dow's love for built-in furniture which made a neater and cleaner look and strategic placement of plantings. The new owners have changed some of this now.

Dow designed two other houses in Ann Arbor. In 1949 he built the Hoobler home at **2228 Belmont** for **Dr. Sibley Hoobler**, another doctor in the medical school with Towsley. The other house was done in 1962 at **7 Regent's Drive** and was the next to last house he designed. It was for **Dr. Joseph Morris**, also of the medical school, who unfortunately died a few months ago. But I was able to meet him and get a tour of the house. The slide shows that the first floor is really the second since it is built into a slope looking into a beautiful garden. The basement is flooded with light. The opposite is the case at the Hoobler house, where these elements are in the front of the house. Both of these houses are also characterized by built-ins and careful placement of views from any part of the interior. One can tell that this has been very carefully thought out.

One other aspect of his designs is the hiding of the doorway, a design feature also beloved by Frank Lloyd Wright. In the Dow Archives one can see that this was part of Dow's philosophy and was not only an issue of privacy but of also an element to add mystery to entering one's abode. When asked how Dow and Wright differed, Craig McDonald of the Dow Archives said that Dow was not as dictatorial as Wright was and would work with people and use their ideas. But in talking with Joe Morris it is clear that Dow would talk to people, but also had ideas of his own. For example, he gave Morris a choice of two colors, rust or green! Dow also designed their kitchen so that they couldn't eat in it. The Morrises had to insist and eventually succeeded in getting their wish.

In 1952 when Morris wanted a house, he asked Dr. Towsley if his brother -in - law would design one for him. He went to Midland and they talked about everything except his house. When he returned he was asked what happened by the secretary and he said he didn't know since they hadn't discussed the house. She said 'that's good—he needs to take his mind off architecture!' *(Grace then discussed her driving tour in Midland using cassette tapes supplied by the Dow Home and Studio. Many of these houses and churches will be seen on the June 3 Tour.)*



City Hall, Ann Arbor, 1961

Back in Ann Arbor, Dow began designing more public buildings, including many for the University of Michigan. His first commission for the University was for the **Margaret Bell Pool** in 1952 (it now has several additions and is referred to as the Kinesiology Department). The slide shows Margaret Bell at the ground-breaking ceremony. This project opened the door for Dow for more commissions both at the UM and around the state. Remember, this is 1952. There were two places for men to swim on campus (IM Building and Union Pool) but only the 'bathtub' at Barbour

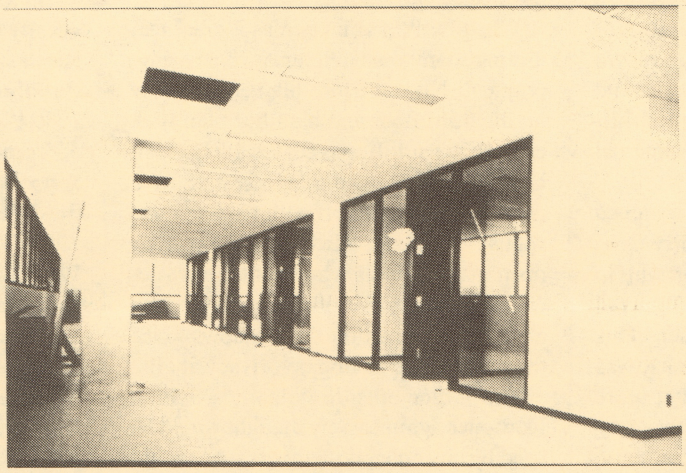
Gym was available to women *(Pauline Walters remembered the tub being the size of the projection screen)*. Margaret Bell raised a lot of money for this pool. The Towsley connection here was Marie Hartwig, a professor of physical education who was a good friend of Mrs. Towsley. Apparently, the night before it officially opened, Ms. Bell and Ms. Hartwig swam together in this new, beautiful pool.

It was a very nice pool, in fact, and had bleachers for people to come and watch programs such as MichiFish and Synchronized Swim meets. Today these stands have been taken out and classrooms have replaced them. What was once an open space is now enclosed behind a wall—and thus the natural light that once shone onto the pool has been eliminated. The pool has been co-ed since 1976 when a great addition was built and the building was renamed CCRB (Central Campus Recreation Building). A third addition was made in 1998 when it became the Department of Kinesiology. From the outside, one can see one of Dow's signature features: a second story balcony of a contrasting color to the brick (often white or blue porcelain on enamel) meant for plantings. For some reason, these never worked out in Ann Arbor (they can be seen on his other buildings in Ann Arbor, especially the AA District Library and City Hall). Despite their lack of success, he kept designing them! Maybe because the ones in Midland do quite well. Perhaps the proximity of Mr. Dow aided this. They are poorly designed for easy access and watering plants can be a nightmare.

The second building he designed for UM was the **Matthaei Botanical Gardens** in 1959. Today it looks very much like it did in the 1960s and has the signature turquoise porcelain on enamel panels found on so many of his buildings. It is ironic that even the Botanical Gardens couldn't manage to keep plantings in his balcony! The building does reflect his philosophy that "gardens never end, buildings never begin": the side patio works to extend the building almost into the ground.

In 1964 he designed the first building for **ISR** on Thompson and Division Streets. This was the first building built for social science research. His original floor plans show that he was, once again, a little too optimistic about the use of light and the role of human nature. The white panels, which protrude from the building, were originally designed to be less protruding that they are today. But Dow changed the plan to allow a sliver of light into some of the offices, a feature that was confounded by later partitions within the interior, which cut off this light to those it was supposed to illuminate. The windows were also problematic in that they were difficult to open and dangerous when open as well despite the existence of a special key.

He designed the core of the building to hold the utilities and then the areas around them to be large open spaces for secretarial staff. Along the walls would be the offices for the project directors. It was touted as being egalitarian but it actually wasn't at all. Corner offices were bigger and were clearly for higher ups in the organization. However, the research projects didn't always divide into neat little units and this created havoc with the somewhat rigid office arrangement. ISR has grappled with the need for more space over the years and has built two additions that aren't terribly gorgeous but don't take away from the original building either.



Original office interior Ann Arbor City Hall

Soon after he designed ISR he did the **UM Administration Building** (1966). Like ISR, this building now has problems with being inadequate for current uses. Dow had tried to solve one problem of how to make a blocky building attractive and gave it this Mondrian-like exterior. Many people think the window slits were in response to the campus violence of the sixties but in fact this building was designed before these events took place. As the book ***The Architecture of Alden B. Dow*** (1983) notes, "the repetitiveness of a seven-story office building is camouflaged by geometric window and wall areas divided by stone bands."

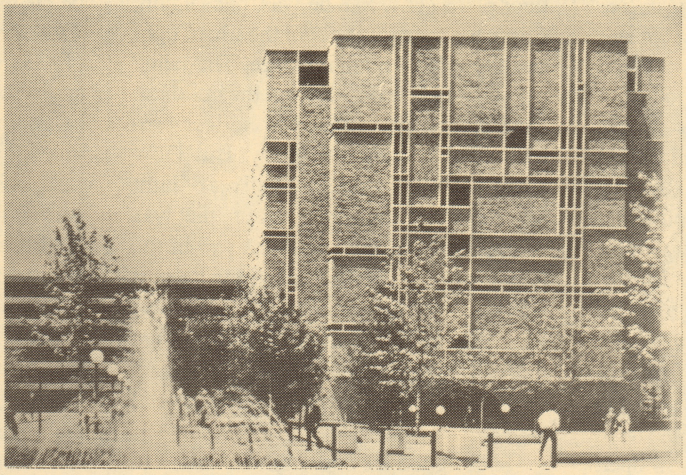
The philosophy of the interior space use was similar to that of the ISR but the same problems again emerged. Everyone wanted their own office and the concept of large open space shared by many people was not warmly accepted. The building was in the spotlight not too long ago when newly inaugurated UM President Bollinger announced plans to move his offices from this 'fortress-like' building. To date, this has not yet happened.

Also that year, Dow designed the **Towsley Center for Continuing Medical Education**. This building was and is still a success. It appears that Dow was at his best when he was designing a building for a very specific purpose. He conferred with the building's namesake and his brother-in-law Harry Towsley and the building today is virtually unchanged, except that when it was built it was facing a street! Today the Taubman Wing of the UM Hospital blocks its view of the road and the Huron River Valley beyond. Like many of Dow's buildings it has banks of windows letting in lots of light. The internal arrangement of rooms for meetings and displays has served it well and it still functions in this capacity today. The current manager with whom I spoke said that it is the best continuing education building he has worked in.

Going back to the fifties again, we view Dow's first municipal building in Ann Arbor, the **Public Library**, built in **1956**. A photograph of the interior of the Dow Public Library of Midland shows (to those of us who remember the library before it was remodeled) us how similar the two buildings were. A large reading room suffused with light and surrounded by an open balcony was Dow's standard treatment for this use.

I spoke with Gene Wilson who later became Director of the Library and he explained how the library came about. After World War II the library needed to find a new home because the AA High School to which is was attached was being sold

to the University (it is now the Frieze Building). The librarians were familiar with Dow's Library in Midland (1953) and thought him a very forwarding thinking architect, eminently suited to design a library for them. Today, Dow's signature trademarks are visible on the front façade, where we see the blue porcelain enamel banding around a projecting planter at the second floor level (Wilson mentioned that a janitor actually broke his leg trying to water plants there!) There were also plantings at street level. There were problems however with the interior design since uses and traffic patterns were not clearly thought out beforehand. Today, behind the original building are two additions, one by Donald Van Curler and the newest by David Osler which attempted to rectify some of these internal problems.



UM Administration Building, 1964

The next public building he designed in Ann Arbor was the **Community Center** on N. Main Street, which was built in **1958**. Mrs. Towsley was on the Board of Directors of the Community Center. This is another building was I didn't realize was a Dow design until I looked at it more closely and discovered it has all the characteristics of his buildings. It is built into a hill and wraps around an open courtyard. When you enter from the sidewalk you are really on the second level. I spoke with a current director and they are very happy with the building and say it is very well built. They too, however, feel the need for more space, especially for a gym for kids to play basketball.

Dow's most controversial building is probably **Ann Arbor City Hall**, now the Guy J. Larcom Jr. Municipal Building constructed in **1961**. The building required the demolition of an almost entire city block, and the razing of some of the city's oldest and most historic houses. It has been called an "inverted ziggurat," "a poor man's Guggenheim," "an upside-down wedding cake" and a "bureau of drawers." Yet the building, with its floors widening at each level, is a true architectural landmark in the city. Sidney Robinson in ***The Architecture of Alden Dow*** (1983) describes it as "unbroken brick volumes contrasted with repeated textures of window bands which are enlarged to fit a large civic structure." It does have many detractors however.

When built, it was seen as a great feat uniting many disparate units of city government. His signature planters are now on the third floor and his floor plan with centralized utilities predates ISR. Open halls, which housed the support staff, have now been sectioned off with workstations so that the interior offices are no longer as open to the light as when built. Those occupying the interior offices tended to put curtains or blinds on the windows since they didn't like having no privacy at all.

The larger outside balconies, which Dow once again naively thought would be used by city council members who would caucus outdoors (how could he not remember Michigan's winters?) have never been used. With the space crunch a problem again, these design features seem to many to be a waste of useful space. And now that the need for space is once again an issue, discussions are being held and architects are being hired to expand, renovate or demolish this structure.

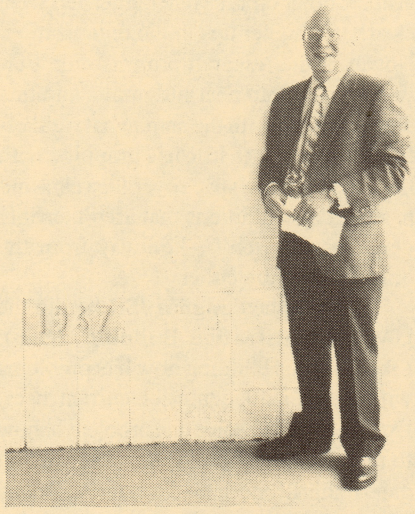


Photo by Susan Wineberg

Bob Reisch, building mgr of Greenhills School, with cornerstone

Dow also designed buildings for several businesses in Ann Arbor. In 1960 he did the **Leonard Gas Station** at the corner of Arbordale and W. Stadium Blvd, across from the Post Office. Two years later he designed the headquarters for **Conductron** at 3475 Plymouth Road and a year after that the headquarters for **University Microfilms** at 300 N. Zeeb Road. His last office building, the **Plymouth Building,** was designed in 1970 and is at 2929 Plymouth. It will soon be the home of Tom Monaghan's new Ave Maria School of Law. According to an article in the **Detroit Free Press** in September 1999, Monaghan, a lover of Frank Lloyd Wright buildings and those of Dow as well, planned to spend more than $4 million to renovate the building. Dow also designed one church in Ann Arbor, the **Michigan District Headquarters for the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod** at 3773 Geddes in 1964.

One of his last projects was the place we are now, **Greenhills School** built in **1967**. Here again there is a Towsley connection. Mrs. Towsley was on the original board and Judy Dow Rumelhart was the first drama teacher. Dow's signature big windows and hidden doors are once again in evidence and he did a good job with the design perhaps because this was a single use building. He specifically designed spaces for kids to talk to each other when not in class, unlike public schools where the only interaction went on in hallways. These kivas and alcoves in the corners were successful until they were needed for office space.

Best of all, he designed this building which was unusually easy to build additions onto. Dan Jacobs, the principal architect of four additions from 1984-1998 (Dow himself did three additions from 1969-71), found it fairly easy to mimic the same style while still creating something of his own. He has been somewhat forced into this role by current building manager

Bob Reisch, who will give us a tour of the building following the talk. Reisch joked about how he had to rein in Jacobs' own creative instincts to remain true to the Dow design. This has been so successful that alumni visiting the school cannot tell where the old ends and the new begins. The school remains one of the truest to Dow's original intent, serving the needs of Ann Arbor's children in an almost park-like setting."

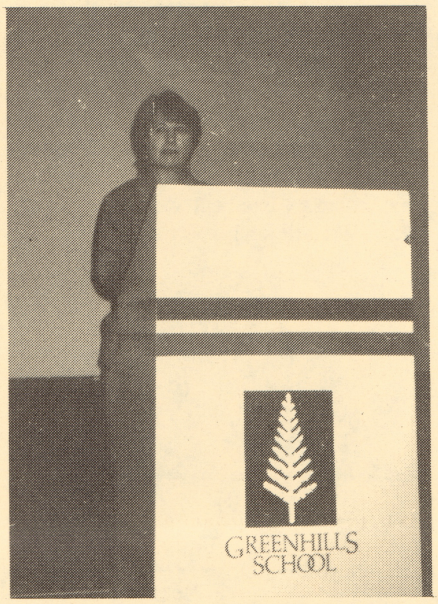


Photo by Susan Wineberg

Grace Shackman speaks to a crowd of 60 people.

Garden Grant Received

I'm happy to report that our gardener and Board Member Pat Thompson has received a $400 grant from the Washtenaw Master Gardener Alumni Association. You can be sure it will be put to good use. Thank you Master Gardeners and hats off to Pat for this great success!

Also related to the garden: member Dorothy Donohue died a few weeks ago and left $500 to WCHS. The Board allocated this amount to Pat to buy spring bulbs for the MoMS Garden.

Alden Dow's Ann Arbor Buildings

Homes:

1932 Towsley home, 1000 Berkshire

1949 Hoobler home, 2228 Belmont

1962 Morris home, 7 Regent's Drive

University Buildings:

1952 Margaret Bell Pool, 401 Washtenaw

1959 Matthaei Botanical Gardens and
1965 superintendent's house, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd.

1964 Institute for Social Research, 426 Thompson

1966 University Administration Building, 503 Thompson

1966 Towsley Center for Continuing Medical Education, 1515 E. Medical Ctr Dr.

Municipal Buildings:

1956 Ann Arbor Public Library

1958 Ann Arbor Community Center, 625 N. Main St.

1961 Ann Arbor City Hall

Companies:

1960 Leonard Gas Station, Arbordale and W. Stadium Blvd.

1962 Conductron, 3475 Plymouth Rd.

1963 University Microfilms, 300 N. Zeeb Rd.

1970 The Plymouth Building, 2929 Plymouth Rd.

Church:

1964 Michigan District Headquarters, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, 3773 Geddes

School:

1967 Greenhills School, 850 Greenhills Drive

Farms Preserved In Washtenaw

The **Washtenaw-Potawatomi Land Trust (WPLT)** newsletter reports that **Webster Township** has completed its first conservation easement. **Ernie Becker** and **Cyndi Zuccaro** have donated a 14-acre property which is mostly wetlands with a branch of Arms Creek flowing along one edge. The Easement is to protect natural features and wildlife habitat by prohibiting alteration of the landscape from its current condition. The area is a nesting spot for sandhill cranes.

The newsletter also reports that three farms have been preserved through the **State of Michigan Farmland Preservation Program**. All three received assistance from Barry Lonik, Executive Director of WPLT who helped with the applications. The farms are the **Parker farm** on both sides of Parker Rd in Scio and Lima Townships; the **Manny farm** north of the Parker farm in Scio; and the **Howard and Kelven Braun Farm** of York Township. The Parker farm has been in the family since the 1830s making it one of the oldest farms in continuous ownership in Washtenaw County. The owners of the Manny Farm received a second Land Preservationist of the Year award in 1999. The proceeds from selling their easement allowed the Brauns to puchase other prime farmland which they intend to nominate to the state as well. We congratulate the WPLT for their successful efforts in preserving the Washtenaw County landscape.

Around The County

Saline's 20th century **Rentschler Farm** at 1265 E. Michigan Ave re-opens for the summer season on Saturday **May 6** from 11-4. Visitors may park in the Ford lot just west of the farm. The farm will be open every Saturday after that except holiday weekends. See traditional crafts, music, animals and a Queen Anne farmhouse. This is free!

The Saline Area Historical Society also operates the **Saline Depot Museum** at 402 N. Ann Arbor Street, corner of Bennett. It is open Saturdays except holidays from 11-3 and admission is free. Call 734-429-4494.

In **downtown Saline**, visit the **Bixby Marionette Exhibit** at the Culture and Commerce Center, 141 E. Michigan Ave. It is open from 9-5 M-F and Saturday from 1-3 and is also free. The exhibit is of puppets belonging to Saline's own Meredith Bixby, one of America's foremost puppeteers. Call 734-944-9416.

The **Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County** will next meet on Sunday **May 21** at Washtenaw Community College, Lecture Hall #1, at 1:30 PM. The speaker will be **Andrew J. Morris** discussing Irish Research. The class following the talk will be on the genealogy holdings of the Dexter Historical Museum by Nancy VanBlaricum, a holdover topic from last month.

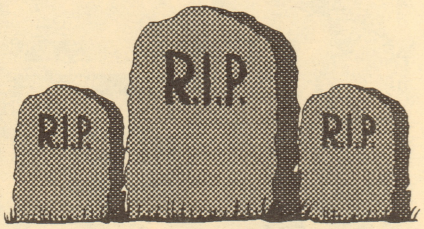
On **June 25th**, they will hold their **Annual Picnic** at the old Ypsilanti Fire Station, which is being turned into a museum. President Marcia McCrary is retiring from teaching and will be working there in the future, giving tours and helping with exhibits.

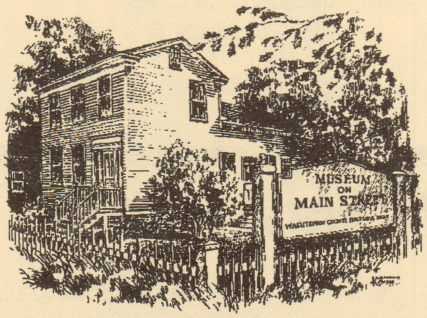
The **Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation** reports that the Annual Marker Awards Banquet will be held **May 24th** at the Ladies Literary Club. Awards are given to homeowners who have improved their properties. This is their "social event of the season" and coincides with Preservation Week.

CORRECTION: **Don Riddering of Salem Twp.** called to let me know that the barn they 'moved' is actually dis-assembled. It will be re-assembled sometime this summer. Sorry if this caused any confusion!

Cemetery Attacked

On April 24th, *The Ann Arbor News* reported the vicious and malicious destruction of over 85 tombstones in the cemetery attached to the Salem Ev. Lutheran Church in Scio Township. Some of you may remember seeing this unusually lovely cemetery on our June Trip to Sharon Township in 1995. The News reported that some stones were pushed over and some even torn out of the ground. Sections of multi-piece towers were found scattered about. One stone ball was placed in front of the church. Our hearts go out to the church and all the family members whose loved ones memory has been desecrated in this way. We will keep you posted.





WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Post Office Box 3336
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ANNUAL MEETING & POTLUCK

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